

As is typical of Washington, most of the proposed solutions to the malpractice problem involve unconstitutional usurpations of areas best left to the states. These solutions also ignore the root cause of the litigation crisis: the shift away from treating the doctor-patient relationship as a contractual one to viewing it as one governed by regulations imposed by insurance company functionaries, politicians, government bureaucrats, and trial lawyers. There is no reason why questions of the assessment of liability and compensation cannot be determined by a private contractual agreement between physicians and patients. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act is designed to take a step toward resolving these problems through private contracts.

Using insurance, private contracts, and binding arbitration to resolve medical disputes benefits patients, who receive full compensation in a timelier manner than under the current system. It also benefits physicians and hospitals, which are relieved of the costs associated with litigation. Since it will not cost as much to provide full compensation to an injured patient, these bills should result in a reduction of malpractice premiums. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act benefits everybody except those trial lawyers who profit from the current system. I hope all my colleagues will help end the malpractice crises while ensuring those harmed by medical injuries receive just compensation by cosponsoring my Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK D.
McLAUGHLIN

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2003 my friend and constituent, Patrick D. McLaughlin, will retire from 36 years of service with United Parcel Service. On that day, Pat will complete a very distinguished career that he began in 1967 as an office assistant. Since then, he has enjoyed a steady rise through the UPS ranks.

During this most recent tenure as the Upstate New York Public Affairs Coordinator, Pat has been a valuable source of information, always providing a straightforward assessment on the local impact of national policy being debated in Washington. UPS provides hundreds of steady, good paying jobs in my Congressional District. Pat's capable advocacy on behalf of these employees deserves our recognition and demonstrates his unwavering commitment to the betterment of the Central New York community.

In knowing and working with Pat through the years, we have developed a lasting friendship that will continue even though his duties at UPS will soon come to an end. As a friend, I am grateful for the opportunity to formally acknowledge his meaningful contributions to our community and honor his service to UPS on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

Good luck, Pat. Thank you for your hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, 2003, I was unable to vote on H.R. 441 (rollcall vote 50), H. Con. Res. 77 (rollcall 51), and H. Res. 19 (rollcall vote 52). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three measures.

RECOGNIZING BESSIE C. ALLEN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Mrs. Bessie C. Allen. Through her work as an educator Mrs. Allen has clearly demonstrated her affection and dedication to the community and state of New Jersey. She is truly a woman of unique character, leadership and ability. Mrs. Allen is a role model to all the young people whose lives she strives to enrich.

Bessie C. Allen has exhibited an tireless commitment to education throughout her life. In 1960, Mrs. Allen graduated from Ebenezer High School in Dazell, South Carolina. She later graduated from South Carolina State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics Education. Mrs. Allen went on to get her Masters of Arts Degree in Urban Education from the New York State University, Buffalo, NY, and a Masters of Science Degree in Educational Administration & Supervision from Kean College in Union, New Jersey. In 2001, Mrs. Allen attended the Comer Principal's Academy and Comer training at Yale University in Stanford, Connecticut.

Bessie C. Allen served as an Extension Home Economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina where she diligently helped rural families and 4-H Clubs to improve life in Lee County, South Carolina. After teaching home economics at several schools, Mrs. Allen served as Head Teacher and Department Chairperson of Neptune High School, devoting her talents to the department of Home Economics, Physical Education, Health, Art, Music and Industrial Arts. Mrs. Allen also served as Vice President of Neptune High School.

Currently, Mrs. Allen is an esteemed and greatly admired Principal of the Gables Elementary School of Neptune, New Jersey and has been honored many times over for her diligent service. Bessie C. Allen was named Outstanding Young Educator in New York State, Teacher of the Year in the State of New Jersey and one of ten Teachers of the Year in the United States. In addition to these honors, Mrs. Allen has received the distinguished honors of Who's Who in American Education, the Worlds Who's Who of Women, Two Thousand Notable American Women and International Leaders in America. In 1989, Mrs. Allen received the Degree of Declaration as a Lifetime Deputy Governor of the American Biographical Institute.

Mrs. Allen is married to Frederick Allen. Together they enjoy the company of their seven

children and eight grandchildren. Mrs. Allen has spent thirty-nine years in her profession as an educator and throughout this time has continually strived to improve the lives of her students and the quality of her community. Bessie C. Allen is an exceptional woman whose strong character and talents are greatly appreciated by all who know her. On this day, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending this extraordinary individual for her dedicated service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GIFT OF
LIFE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL
ACT OF 2003

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to reintroduce the Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act of 2003. This legislation creates a commemorative Congressional medal of honor for organ donors and their families for performing such a brave and self-less act. Recognition of these gifts of life also publicizes our critical national need to increase organ donation. I want to thank Senator FRIST a heart and lung transplant surgeon himself, for introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

There is a serious shortage of available and suitable organs for donation. Over 80,000 people are currently waiting for an organ transplant; 2,200 are children under age 18. Every 13 minutes a new name is added to the list. Because of low donor rates, in 2001 alone over 6,000 people died for lack of suitable organ. Physicians can now successfully transplant kidneys, lungs, pancreases, livers, and hearts with considerable success. But, without expanded efforts to increase organ donation, the supply of suitable organs will continue to lag behind the need. Incentive programs and public education are critical to maintaining and increasing the number of organs donated each year.

Health and Human Services' (HHS) Secretary Thompson has been a strong advocate for organ donation throughout his years in public service. Under his leadership, HHS has already implemented initiatives to raise the public awareness of this vital act of giving life. The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act is a great opportunity for us to work with Secretary Thompson to draw attention to this life-saving issue. It sends a clear message that donating one's organs is an act that should receive the profound respect of our nation.

The Gift of Life Congressional Medal Act establishes a nonprofit fund to be used to design, produce, and distribute a Congressional medal of honor to organ donors or to a surviving family member. Enactment of this legislation would have no cost to the Federal Government. The Treasury Department would provide a small initial loan for start-up purposes, which would be fully repaid. Subsequently, the program would be self-sufficient through charitable donations.

This is non-controversial, non-partisan legislation to increase the rate of organ donation. I ask my colleagues to help bring an end to transplant waiting lists and recognize the enormous faith and courage displayed by organ donors and their families. This bill honors